

THE

ANNUAL REPORT

for the Year 1947

of the

Medical Officer of Health

with that of the

Sanitary Inspector

for

THE RURAL DISTRICT OF TAMWORTH

WILLIAM LOWSON, M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health

CHARLES W. BERESFORD, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,
Sanitary Inspector



Tamworth Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Chairman and Members of the Tamworth Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Seventeenth Annual Report of the Rural District of Tamworth, together with that of the Sanitary Inspector, for the year ending 31st December, 1947.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) 22,032.

Registrar-General's estimate of

- (a) resident population, mid-1947, 15,810.
- (b) average population appropriate to the calculation of death rates, 15,810.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1947) according to Rate Books, 4,265.

Rateable Value £59,223.

Sum represented by a penny rate £212.

The chief industry is coal-mining. Other industries include engineering works, the manufacture of terra-cotta, sanitary appliances and bricks. Dairy farming is also carried on, supplies being sent to surrounding districts and in particular to Birmingham.

LIVE BIRTHS.

		To	tal.				
	M.	F.	Μ.	F.			
Legitimate Illegitimate	179	156	171 8	148		ate per 1,000 opulation mid	
STILLBIRTHS.							
Legitimate Illegitimate	5	5	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	Rate	per 1,000 tota still) births	•
					Total.	М.	F.
Deaths	• • •		• •	•••	161	91	70
Death Ra	ate p	er I,	000 6	estim	ated average	population	10.2

Deaths from puerperal causes (headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :-

		,	Deaths.	Rate per (live a	r 1,000 total nd still) births
No. 29	Puerp	eral sepsis	_		_
No. 30	Other	puerperal causes			_
Total	•••		_		_
Deaths	from	Cancer (all ages)	23		
,,	,,	Measles (all ages)	_		
,,	,,,	Whooping Cough	(all ages)		
,,	,,	Diarrhoea (under a	2 years of	f age)	I.

DEATHS OF INFANTS under I year of age.

	M.	F.	Т.
Legitimate Infants	7	3	IO
Illegitimate	_	_	_

The following Table gives the causes of all deaths.

	All Causes.	М.	F.	Total
	Typhoid or Paratyphoid Fevers	_	-	
2	Measles	—		 —
3	Scarlet-fever			-
4	Whooping Cough	-	_	
5	Diphtheria	_		
	Influenza	3	2	5
7 8	Encephalitis Lethargica Cerebro Spinal Fever			
9	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	I	4	5
10	Other Tuberculosis Diseases	I		I
II	Syphilis			_
12	General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes dorsalis			_
13	Cancer, Malignant Disease	13	10	23
14	Diabetes	2	I	3
15	Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	5	IO	15
10	Heart disease	20	18	38
17	Aneurysm	_		_
18	Other Circulatory Diseases	2	Ī	3 8
19 20	Bronchitis	7	I	6
21	Pneumonia (all forms) Other Respiratory Diseases	5	I	
22	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	I	_	I
23	Diarrhoea, etc. under 2 years		I	I
24	Appendicitis			_
25	Cirrhosis of the Liver			—
26	Other Diseases of Liver, etc	_		
27	Other Digestive Diseases	2	6	8
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	I	5	6
29	Puerperal Sepsis			
30	Other Puerperal Causes			_
31	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Mal-			6
270	formations, etc Other Maternal Causes	4	2	0
31a 32				
.33	Senility Suicide	_	_	
34	Other Violent Causes	6	_	6
34a	Road Traffic Accidents	4	ı	5
35	All other Causes	13	7	20
	Special Causes (included in No. 34 above)	-	_	—
	Smallpox			—
	Poliomyelitis	I		I
	Polioencephalitis	-	-	
	Totals	91	70	161

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

I. Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Medical Officer of Health, Dr. W. LOWSON, M.B.

Inspector, Inspector under the Milk and Dairies Order. and Petroleum Officer.

Sanitary Inspector, Meat \ C. W. BERESFORD, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A., holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Certif-Canal Boats, Factories Act | icate of the Royal Sanitary Institute) for Inspection of Meat and other Foods.

Laboratory Facilities.

By arrangements between the Warwickshire County Council and the University of Birmingham, the medical practitioners in the district are enabled to utilise the laboratory at the University for all their needs.

3. Ambulance Facilities.

The Council has one ambulance and this together with the ambulances at the various Works and Collieries is adequate for the needs of the district. The ambulance facilities of the Birmingham Hospitals Scheme also operate in the district.

4. Nursing in the Home.

District Nurses are employed by voluntary agencies with the help of the County Council, in all villages of the Authority.

Treatment Centres and Clinics. 5.

School Clinics and Baby Clinics are held under the supervision of the Medical Officer of the County through his assistants.

6. Hospitals.

There are no hospitals situated in the District.

The Tamworth General Hospital is largely used by the people of the district for acute surgical illnesses.

The Poor Law Infirmary and Institution situated in Tamworth is used to the extent of one hundred beds for Warwickshire patients suffering from chronic illnesses.

The Tamworth Isolation Hospital for infectious diseases is governed by a Joint Hospital Board; the Borough and Rural District Councils are the constituent Authorities.

SECTION C .- SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. Water Supplies.

A considerable portion of the District is supplied by the Tamworth Waterworks Joint Committee from a well situated at Hopwas which latter is augmented by a supply from South Staffordshire Waterworks Company as required, and the following are the pumping records and rainfall for the past three years.

				Well.		
	Galls. pumped.	Hig	hest.	Lov	vest.	Rainfall.
1945	184,591,000	6'	0"	ı'	3"	23.20"
1946	187,068,000	7	9"	ľ	7"	31.30"
1947	218,271,000	9'	0"	ľ	5"	24.36''

Monthly analyses submitted to the County Analyst show the quality of the water to be good and suitable for a public supply, as will be seen from the following:-

The following is an analysis taken :-

Total Solid matter dried at 212° F.	33.00
Free and Saline Ammonia	None
Albuminoid	None
Nitric Nitrogen	0.45
Chlorine	3.30.
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80° F.	0.001.
Appearance	Clear.
Injurious Metallic Contamination	None.
P,H. Value	7.70.
Hardness before boiling	15.70.
Hardness after boiling	6.50.
Temporary Hardness	9.20.

Expressed in parts per 100,000.

This water is chemically of satisfactory quality.

BACTERIOLOGICAL.

Count,	On nutrient agar after 48 hours' incubation at 37° c	Nil.
	On nutrient agar after 72 hours' incubation at 20°22° c.	Nil.
	Coli Aerogenes Content (Presumptive co after 48 hours' incubation at 37° c.	li) Nil.

This sample shows no bacteriological evidence of recent sewage pollution.

The clause in the Ministry Report No. 71 suggests "that when a Public Water Supply contains not more than two presumptive coli per 100 ml. the sample may be regarded as reasonably satisfactory."

The Parish of Kingsbury has a piped supply from sources, viz, Dumble Springs, and Kingsbury Colliery Supply for Kingsbury Village, Bodymoor Heath, Hurley and Whateley.

Dosthill by the Tamworth Joint Waterworks.

The Parishes of Newton Regis, Austrey, Middleton and Seckington are now supplied by mains laid down by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.

The supplies of water have been regularly analysed and found bacteriologically satisfactory, but many complaints were again received during the year concerning the discolouration of the water from the new supply for Kingsbury, and the Council are negotiating with the Birmingham Corporation for a supply for the whole of this Parish.

These complaints are certainly justified because of the excessive free iron in the water and this matter is receiving attention.

2. Sewage Disposal.

The greater part of the District, namely Glascote, Wilnecote and Twogates is served by the Sewage Disposal Joint Committee.

Joint Committee Pumping Station. The electrically driven pumping installation at these Works continues to function according to the demand on them, and is capable of dealing with six times dry weather flow with ease.

Amington. The sewage works at Amington has maintained a fair effluent and the two pumping stations Moor Lane and Pretty Pigs have been kept in good order.

Austrey. The sewage field for disposal of sewage from this parish is not adequate and the Council have prepared a Scheme for sewers and sewage disposal for the parish together with Newton Regis, No Mans Heath, Seckington, Alvecote and Shuttington, in which sewage disposal facilities are also not sufficient. The plans

have been sent to the Warwickshire County Council in connection with the Council's application for a grant towards the cost.

Kingsbury. During the year the Health Committee's attention was again drawn to the fact that the effluents from the Sewage Works at Cliff, Wood End, Hurley Village and Hurley Common, are not satisfactory. Plans to improve these conditions have been prepared and in the near future more extensive works will be installed, but for the present, the work is held up through supplies and labour difficulties.

Dosthill and Hockley. These sewage disposal works are serving satisfactorily and a good effluent has been maintained.

Middleton. The need for sewers and sewage disposal works in this parish and at Bassetts Pole was reported and plans have been prepared for submission to the County Council for a grant towards the cost.

Rivers. The rivers in the area are controlled by the Trent Catchment Board and their work in cleaning the Tame and improving the banks have been continued.

House Refuse. A regular collection of house refuse is carried out by direct labour in all the Parishes in the district, for which ten men are regularly employed, removal being carried out by a Shelvoke and Drewry Freighter and a Karrier Bantam Refuse Vehicle.

At the present time Tips are used for disposal of the refuse collected by the Council in the Parishes of Kingsbury, including Dosthill, Wood End, Hurley, Amington, Glascote and Wilnecote; and by arrangement with the Lichfield Rural District Council, in Fazeley. Salvaging of various materials was continued. The method adopted is by the use of sacks attached to the rear of the Refuse Freighter, and the employment of a lorry for collection in all Parishes. After sorting and baling the materials are disposed of to licensed scrap merchants and paper mills.

Experience continues to shew that a bonus paid to the workman has the effect of producing a maximum amount of salvaged materials, the bonus being $33\frac{1}{3}\%$ of gross amount collected by men engaged on refuse collection, and 15% each for the men on full-time salvaging, after deducting a minimum of £25 value of materials per calendar month.

Summary of Sanitary Work of the District, 1946.

A	Approx. No. of Inspections and		Nuisances abated
	Observations made.	Notices Served.	after Notice.
Water Supply	58	6	6
Drains	350	39	39
Stables and Piggeries	15	10	8
Fried Fish Shops	ıı	I	ı
Tents, Vans and Sheds	20	6	3
Factories	14	4	4
Petroleum and Carbide	5	2	2
Bakehouses	6	2	2
Public Conveniences	40	5	5
Smoke Observations	3	I	I
Refuse Collection	320	IIO	95
Rats and Mice	60	65	65
Schools	3	I	I
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	175	95	90
Canal Boats	29	7	5
Under Public Health Acts.			
Number of Houses Inspected	110	45	34
Visits paid to the above Houses	125		
Housing Acts.			
Number of Houses Inspected	190	220	190
Visits paid to the above Houses	190		
Overcrowding.			
Number of Houses Inspected	15		
Visits paid to the above Houses	15	_	
Verminous Premises.			
Number of Houses Inspected	17	4	4
	-/	4	**
Miscellaneous Visits. Infectious Diseases	το.		
	19		
Visits paid to the above Houses Slaughter Houses	19		
Shops and Stalls	I0	7	7
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	25 120	7 22	7 19
Cove Chada	300	50	39
Dairies and Milkshops	300	35	30
Daires and Printered			
TOTALS	2564	737	650
Samples of Water taken for Analysis		Q	
Samples of Water taken for Analysis condemned as unf		8 1	
regarded as of go			
,, ,, regarded as of go	od quanty	7	

TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, ETC.

Inspections have been made at various times to the few Tents, Vans and similar Structures in the District, which now total fourteen for the whole District. Every endeavour is made to dissuade applicants who propose to acquire or live in such dwellings from so doing.

SMOKE ABATEMENT AND ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Observations for smoke abatement have been made throughout the year and in addition to reporting any infringement of the Smoke Nuisances Section of the Public Health Act to the Managers of Works, the Sanitary Inspector interviews the stokers and this generally has the desired effect.

Schools.

It was not found necessary to close any School during the year on account of the incidence of notifiable diseases.

The Sanitary accommodation and water supplies are satisfactory and are maintained properly. As will be seen from the Report on page 11, the number of cases of infectious disease are kept down to a minimum and in order to assist as far as possible children are promptly excluded from School when infectious disease has arisen at their homes.

Disinfectants are supplied to the Schools and houses when required.

SECTION D.

Housing.

The usual Report is omitted as suggested in the Ministry's Circular as to the contents of this Annual Report, but the summary shown on page 8 shows the number of Notices served under the Public Health Acts and the Housing Act requiring repairs to houses. There is a serious shortage of houses at the present time and the Council have bought sites for housing construction and have fixed the standard for the District as outlined in the booklet "Rural Housing."

Sites already in the Council's ownership have been surveyed in readiness for new houses and at the end of the year prefabricated or permanent houses were completed at Wood End, Glascote, Wilnecote, Newton Regis, Dosthill and Amington, and further work commenced on houses at Wood End, Twogates and Newton Regis.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk and Dairies Order.

A large quantity of milk produced for despatch from the farms

in the district to Birmingham and Tamworth requires the inspection of farms and dairies, the total number of which is shown below:-

Wholesale ... 121 Retail ... 92

Thirty-nine Farmers are licensed for the production of "Accredited" Milk, and nine for Tuberculin Tested Milk, the latter having increased from three in 1946 chiefly due to upgrading.

Supplementary licences to distributors whose premises are outside the District:-

Tuberculin tested I Accredited ... I Pasteurised ... 2

Various infringements met with included lack of cleanliness, nadequate drainage, water supplies inadequate or not bacteriologically safe, floors of cowsheds and milkrooms not formed of impervious material, and other items.

Generally speaking the requirements of the Sanitary Inspector were complied with by verbal request or informal notice, but statutory notices are served where such action fails to achieve the desired result.

It is still the opinion of the Health Department that regular sampling of milk from farms, particulary those holding an "Accredited" licence produces a higher standard of cleanliness, particularly where the results of such sampling are regularly forwarded to the Farmers. Since July 1943 regular fortnightly samples were taken for "Keeping quality" tests by the Ministry of Agriculture administering the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme.

(b) Meat and other Foods.

At the commencement of the War this work was curtailed by the slaughtering of animals at the Government Slaughterhouse in the Borough of Tamworth, but by arrangement with the Sanitary Inspector for this Authority inspections are carried out jointly, and this has been found to work very satisfactorily.

The whole of the slaughterhouses in the District are now licensed under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The number of licensed slaughtermen under the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act is 42.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases.

No disease was prevalent during the year in epidemic form.

Steps were taken by the Authority during the year in the matter of immunisation against diphtheria, the total number of children treated in 1947 being:- (a) age 0-4, 234; (b) 5 to 9, 39; (c) 10-14, 12; a percentage of 19% against the total number of children (a) 0-4, 1382 (b) 5-14, 2,226.

The number of visits to premises where cases of infectious disease have been notified is 19.

In the majority of cases the patients were removed to hospital disinfection of the rooms carried out forthwith and disinfectant supplied to the tenants.

The following Table shows the number of notifiable diseases notified during the year.

Total Cases	notified.	Total deaths.
Measles	77	_
Smallpox	Nil.	_
Scarlet Fever	7	_
Whooping Cough	16	_
Diphtheria	Nil.	_
Enteric Fever	Nil.	_
Pneumonia	12	6
Puerperal Fever	Nil.	_
Puerperal Pyrexia	Nil.	_
Cerebro Spinal Fever	Nil.	93 9
Erysipelas	I	_
Encephalitis Lethargica	Nil.	_
Tuberculosis:-		
(I) Pulmonary	3	4
(2) Non-pulmonary	2	*********
Blindness. All necessary	action was	taken.

Below is a Table showing new cases and mortality for Tuber-culosis.

		New C	ASES.	Deaths.				
Age Periods	Respiratory.		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory.		Non- Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	
0	_							
I	_	—						
5	—		2				_	_
IO	_		_			_		
15		2	<u> </u>					—
20								_
25		_	<u> </u>	_				
35	, I	—	<u> </u>			3	_	
45					I			-
55			<u> </u>	—	<u> </u>	—		—
65 and		_				—		—
upwards								
Totals	I	2	2		I	3		

The County Tuberculosis Officer and Health Visitor visit patients in their homes when necessary. Patients may be admitted to Sanatoria at Groundslow, Prestwood, Bramcote, Hertford Hill and certain other places.

The Tamworth Rural District Council is a constituent authority of the South Staffordshire Joint Smallpox Board and any case occuring in the District may be removed to their Hospital at Moxley.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936. CANAL BOATS (S. 249).

Periodical visits have been made to the various docks and wharves for the purpose of examining canal boats.

The total number of Boats on the Register at the 31st December, 1947, was 144.

During the year, the cabins of 31 Boats have been examined which were registered for occupation by 98 persons, but were

occupied by only 78 persons. This number is made up as follows:-

Male Adults	32
Female Adults	22
Children of School-age	17
Children under School-age	7
	78

The children's ages were as follows:-

- 2 aged 2 years.
- 3 aged 4 years.
- 2 aged 5 years.
- 4 aged 7 years.
- 3 aged 8 years.
- 5 aged 9 years.
- 2 aged 10 years.
- 2 aged 10 years.

Contraventions were met with on 9 Boats, the details being as follows:-

- Absence of Certificate.
- I Marking.
- I Overcrowding.
- 2 Cleanliness.
- I Painting.
- 3 Dilapidation.

No Boat was found to be carrying offensive Cargo.

No infectious disease was met with and therefore no Boats detained for disinfection.

Requests for certificates of completion of repairs required by other authorities were attended to after inspection at Messrs. Lees and Atkins, Polesworth, the work being done in an excellent manner for authorities including Birmingham, Coventry, Manchester, Stoke-on-Trent, Ellesmere Port, Wolverhampton, Leicester and Oldbury.

FACTORIES ACT 1937.

PART I. OF THE ACT.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

		M/c	No. on Regis-	Nu	mber of	
	Premises (1)	(2)	ter (3)	Inspections.	Written Notices (5)	Prosecu tions. (6)
(i)	Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorties (i.e. for cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation, and drainage of floors in factories in which mechanical power is not used)	1	34	7	2	
(ii)	Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (i.e. for Sanitary conveniences in factories with or without mechanical power).	2	30	13	4	
(iii)	Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	Nil			
	Total		64	20	6	

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

(if defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases.")

Particulars		Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of defects in
		Found	Re- medied	to H.M Inspec- tor	by H.M. Inspector	respect of which Prosecu- tions were
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	instituted (7)
Want of cleanliness (S.1) Overcrowding (S.2) Unreasonable temperature (S.3.) Inadequate ventilation (S.4) Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (a) insufficient	4 5 6 7 8	2 - 1	2			
(b) Unsuitable or defective (c) Not separate for sexes Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	10 11 12	3	3 -			
TOTAL	60	6	6			

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no statutory offensive trades but Fish Frying premises receive regular attention. These have been periodically inspected and the notice of the occupiers drawn to any lack of cleanliness, etc. and in all cases these received attention after informal notice, the total number in the District being II.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council appointed a full-time Rodent Operative from August 6th, 1946, and his duties have included treatment of sewers (50% of the cost being recoverable from the Ministry of Food, plus the cost of all materials) and treatment of tips and Council premises, also of private dwelling houses (50% of the cost of the latter being recoverable from the Ministry of Food). All reports are dealt with promptly and treatment of tips and sewers is progressing favourably on the methods set out by the Ministry of Food.

We are, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

WILLIAM LOWSON, M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

CHARLES W. BERESFORD, Sanitary Inspector.

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analyses of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1947.

Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

		England and Wales	126 C.Bs. and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns Resident Population 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 Census	London Adm. County.		
Births—		* Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.					
Live Births		20.51	23.3	22.2	22.7		
Still Births	••••	0.501	0.62	0.54	0.49		
	••••	0.00.	0.02	0.51	0.10		
Deaths— All Causes		12.0+	13.0	11.9	12.8		
Typhoid and Paraty	nhoid	12.0‡	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Scarlet Forcer	~	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Whamina Cauch	••••	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02		
Dim b + b amin	••••	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01		
Influence	••••	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.08		
Cmallage	••••	0.00	0.00	0.00			
Mr1		0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01		
	••••	0.01	0.02		0.02		
Notifications—		0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01		
Typhoid Fever	••••	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01		
Paratyphoid Fever		0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01		
Cerebro Spinal Fever	r ,	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.05		
Scarlet Fever	••••	1.37	1.54	2.02	1.31		
Whooping Cough		2.22	2.41		2.80		
Diphtheria	••••	0.13	0.15	0.14	0.14		
Erysipelas	••••	0.19	0.21	0.18	0.22		
Smallpox		0.00	0.00	0.01 9.58	0.00		
Measles	••••	9.41	9.13		5.22		
Pnuemonia		0.79	0.89	0.68	0.64		
Deaths—		Rates per 1,000 Live Births					
All causes under 1 ye		41†	47	36	37		
Enteritis and Diarrh	oea under						
2 years of age		5.8	8.0	3.7	4.8		
Notifications—		Rates	per 1,000 To	otal (Live &	Still Births)		
Puerperal fever		1	Î	1	1.21		
Puerperal pyrexia		7.16	8.99	6.27	6.94††		
Tuciperal pyrexia	****		!	<u>' </u>	0.04		

Maternal Mortality in England and Wales.

	Rate per 1000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Rates per million women aged 15-44
140 Abortion with sepsis	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	9
141 Abortion without sepsis	0.06	5
147 Puerperal infection	0.16	
142-146 Other maternal causes	0.85	

^{*} A dash (—) signifies that there were no Deaths.

‡ Per 1,000, related Births. † Rates per 1,000 population.

††Including Puerperal Fever.



